ROYAL VISIT TO GROSVENOR-HOUSE.

Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians, and attended by a brilliant suite, honoured the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster with their company yesterday at Grosvenor-house.

The noble Marquis's hospitalities commenced with a grand banquet, which was succeeded by a concert, in which all the leading Italian artistes took part. The guests invited to meet Her Majesty at dinner were—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl Spencer, the Viscount Hardinge, Lord Robert Grosvenor, the Hon. Beilby and Lady Elizabeth Lawley, the Hon. W. H. and Lady Caroline Leigh, and the Earl Grosvenor. These guests had assembled at Grosvenor-house before 8 o'clock, and at a few minutes after that hour Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, with the Queen of the Belgians and suite, arrived in three of the Royal carriages.

At half-past 9 o'clock the company invited to the concert began to arrive.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester was attended by Lady Georgiana Bathurst and Lord James Murray. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, followed their illustrious relative, attended by Lady Augusta Cadogan and Mr. E. St. John Mildmay. His Grace the Duke of Wellington arrived before 10 o'clock, and, with the members of the Royal family, was conducted to the saloon. The general company were conducted to the gallery on their arrival. Among those honoured with invitations to meet Her Majesty were—the Prince A. de Schomberg, the Prince Richard Metternich, his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador and suite, his Excellency the Russian Minister, the Baroness Brunnow and Mdlle. Olga de Lechner, his Excellency the Belgian Minister and Madame Van de Weyer, his Excellency the Austrian Minister and the Countess Colloredo, his Excellency the Hanoverian Minister, his Excellency the Minister for the Netherlands and Mdlle. de Schimmelpenninck, his Excellency the Bavarian Minister and the Baroness de Cetto, his Excellency the Prussian Minister and Madame Bunsen, Baron Koller, M. de Sibbern, and the following:—

DUKES.—Argyll, Beaufort, Buccleuch, Cleveland, Grafton, Montrose, Richmond.

DUCHESSES.—Argyll, Beaufort, Buccleuch, Cleveland, De Coigny, Grafton, Montrose, Richmond.

MARQUISES.—Anglesey, Ailesbury, Abercorn, Breadalbane, Blandford, Camden, Douro, Exeter, Ely, Granby, Kildare, Lansdowne, Londonderry, Northampton, Salisbury, Worcester, Winchester.

MARCHIONESSES.—Ailesbury, Abercorn, Douro, Breadalbane, Blandford, Camden, Exeter, Ely, Ely (Dowager), Kildare, Lansdowne, Londonderry, Salisbury, Worcester.

EARLS.—Arundel and Surrey, Bruce, Brownlow, Bective, Cawdor, Cadogan, Charlemont, Burgess, Carlisle, Clare, Cowper, Craven, Caledon, Dartrey, De Grey, Dartmouth, Desart, Eglinton, Ellesmere, Fortescue, Grey, Granville, St. Germans, Harrowby, Haddington, Howe, Harewood, Jersey, Kinnoull, Lincoln, Liverpool, Morley, Minto, Manvers, Malmesbury, Mansfield, Powis, Shelburne, Somers, Strafford, Sefton, Spencer, Sheffield, Talbot, Wilton, Zetland.

COUNTESSES.—Arundel and Surrey, Bruce, Brownlow, Bective, Cawdor, Charlemont, Cowper, Craven, Caledon, Darnley, Dartmouth, Desart, Eglinton, Fortescue, De Flahault, Grey, Granville, St. Germans, Harrowby, Haddington, Howe, Waldegrave (Dowager), Harewood, Jersey, Kinnoull, Lichfield, Morley (Dowager), Morley, Minto, Manvers, Malmesbury, Mansfield (Dowager), Shelburne, Somers, Sefton, Spencer, Sheffield, Talbot, Tankerville, Wilton, Zetland.

VISCOUNTS.—Alford, Anson, Barrington, Combermere, Canning, Courtenay, Ebrington, Hardinge, Jocelyn, Mahon, Melbourne, Mandeville, Palmerston, Seaham, Exmouth, Sydney, Villiers.

VISCOUNTESSES.—Barrington, Combermere, Canning, Ebrington, Hardinge, Jocelyn, Mahon, Melbourne, Palmerston, Seaham, Villiers, Sydney.

LORDS.—Ashburton, Brooke, Bloomfield, Brougham, Dunkellin, Colborne, Delamere, Dufferin, Dalmeny, Denman, De Mauley, Henry Lennox, Elphinstone, Elcho, Foley, Frederick Fitzclarence Forester, Elliot, Frederick Gordon Hallyburton, Claud Hamilton, Leigh, Lyndhurst, Campbell, Adolphus Vane, Lovaine, Edward Fitzalan Howard, Courtenay, Redesdale, Henry Gordon Lennox, George Gordon Lennox, John Russell, Seymour, Stanley, Wenlock, Charles Wellesley, Willoughby De Eresby.

LADIES.—Adelaide Paget, Marian Alford, Margaret Compton, Ashburton, Lytton Bulwer, Henrietta Somerset, Cust (three), Bloomfield, Beauchamp, Augusta Paulet, Honora Cadogan, Mary Howard, Sarah Cholmondeley, Clifford, Isabella Fitzgibbon, Emily and Katharine de Burgh, Harriet Clive, Colborn, Anne Charteris, Louisa Cavendish, Catherine Cavendish, Emily Bligh, Delamere, Dacy, Dover, Dufferin, Frances Legge, Dunmore, Elizabeth Drummond, Anna and Catherine Lofton, Elcho, Charlotte Egerton, Mary Egerton, East, Frederick Fitzclarence, Feversham, Grey, Louisa Eliot, Augusta Gordon, Howard de Walden, Louisa Lascelles, Claude Hamilton, Frances Hope, Lucy Herbert, Clementina Villiers, Frances Hay, Lyons, Leigh, Lawley, Harriet Anson, Caroline Leigh, Caroline Lascelles, Lyndhurst, Adelaide Vane, Dowager Lyttelton, Lovaine, Margaret Littleton, Elliot Cl., A. Ferrepont, Louisa Murray, Caroline and Georgiana Murray, Mary and Adeliza Fitzalan Howard, Peel, Ponsonby (2), Maria Ponsonby, Caroline and Augusta Gordon Lennox, John Russell, Rolle, Seymour, Hermione St. Maur, Stanley, Jane Walsh, Somers Cocks, Clinton, Victoria Talbot, Mary Wood, Mary Vyner, Wenlock, Charles Wellesley, Wilde, Willoughby de Eresby.

BARONESSES.—Strathedan, De Roeth.

Count De Flahault.

BISHOPS.—London, Oxford.

HON. COLONELS.—G. Anson, M.P., Cecil Forester, M.P.

HON. MESSIEURS.—W. Bagot, M.P., J. Stuart Wortley, M.P., H. Cholmondeley, R. Curzon, R. Clive, M.P., F. Charteris, M.P., C. Cavendish, M.P., W. Cowper, M.P., Ellis, J. Dalrymple, A. Egerton, W. Duncombe, G. Hardinge, G. Lascelles, P. Herbert, G. Herbert, W. Leigh, W. S. Lascelles, M.P., F. Lawley, E. Stanley, M.P., Hugh Cholmondeley.

HON. MESDAMES.—G. E. Anson, Anson, H. Cholmondeley, Dalrymple, W. Cowper, J. Dalrymple.

HON. MISSES.—Barrington (2), Flora Macdonald, Stapleton Cotton, Ridley Colborne, Cholmondeley, Ellis, Charteris, Foley, Duncombe, Hardinge, Ellis Leigh, Lyttelton, Mitford, Lister, Willoughby de Eresby.

MESDEMOISELLES.—De Flahault, De Coigny.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Speaker, the Lord Chief-Justice, the Lord Advocate, the Judge Advocate.

RIGHT HON. SIRS.—Robert Peel, M.P., John Cam Hobhouse, M.P., Edward Cust.

SIRS.—Henry Lytton Bulwer, Augustus Clifford, James East, Charles Lemon, M.P., Edmund Lyons, Francis Lawley, Horace Seymour, John Walsh, M.P.

RIGHT HONS.—W. E. Gladstone, M.P., Fox Maule, M.P., H. Pierrepont, R. Lalor Sheil, M.P.

Admiral Bowles.

COLONELS.—Berkeley Drummond, Bouverie.

Rev. H. Howarth, M.A.

Captain C. Egerton.

MESSIEURS.—G. E. Anson, Adderley, M.P., G. Bankes, M.P., Pandan, R. Clive, A. Drummond, G. Drummond, Egerton, R. W. Grey, M.P., Harcourt, M.P., Proby, Knightley, M.P., Littleton, Newdegate, M.P., F. Peel, M.P., A. Stafford, M.P., Assheton Smith, Vyner, Walsh.

MESDAMES.—Adderley, G. Bankes, Blomfield, E. Bouverie, Berkeley Drummond, W. E. Gladstone, Assheton Smith, Shaw Lefevre.

MISSES.—Bankes, Blomfield, Clifford, Clive, Burdett Coutts, Geale, Fitzmaurice, Kreling (2), Proby, Hobhouse, Lascelles, Wilberforce, Peel, Shaw Lefevre (2), Seymour.

At a quarter past 10 o'clock Her Majesty entered the gallery where the concert took place.

The following is a programme of the music performed:—

Parte Prima.

Quintetto—"Di scrivermi ogni giorno," Madame Persiani e Mdlle. de Meric, Signori Mario, Tamburini, e Lablache (Così fan Tutte)	Mozart.
Duo—"Qual' accidente curvo," Madame Persiani e Mdlle. de Meric	Marcello.
Air—"Angiol d'amor," Signor Mario (La Favorita)	Donizetti.
Duo—"Se fiato," Signori Tamburini e Lablache (Matrimonio Segreto)	Cimarosa.
Air—"Son leggiera," Mdlle. de Meric (Maria di Rohan) ..	Donizetti.
Quintetto—"Chi mi frena," Madame Persiani, Signori Mario, Tamburini, e Lablache (Lucia)	Donizetti.

Parte Seconda.

Quintetto—"Et incarnatus," Madame Persiani e Mdlle. de Meric, Signori Mario, Tamburini, e Lablache ..	Haydn.
Air—"Dove sono!" Madame Persiani (Nozze di Figaro)	Mozart.
Trio—"Troncar suoi di," Signori Mario, Tamburini, e Lablache (Guillaume Tell)	Rossini.
Duo—"Lasciami, non t'ascolto," Madame Persiani e Signor Mario (Tancredi)	Rossini.
Air—"In terra ci divisero," Signor Mario (Le Illustri Rivali)	Mercadante.
Coro—"Dal rapitore," Madame Persiani e Mdlle. de Meric, Signori Mario, Tamburini, e Lablache (Guillaume Tell)	Rossini.

Mr. Costa presided at the pianoforte.

At the conclusion of the first part Her Majesty retired to the banqueting-room, and, with the other Royal visitors, partook of refreshments.

At this period of the evening the windows in the rear of the mansion being opened discovered a brilliant illumination in the gardens, the greensward and trees being thickly studded with variegated lamps. The Queen expressed her extreme gratification at the beautiful effect produced; and, having subsequently returned to the gallery, remained until the close of the concert, when Her Majesty took leave of the noble host and hostess, and returned to Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess of Kent was prevented being present owing to slight indisposition.

[Advertisement.]

THE REPRESENTATION OF LONDON.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

Gentlemen,—I have accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. The decision of the House of Lords, last night, has left me no alternative.

The contest is now between the House of Lords and yourselves. They attempt to retain the last remnant of religious intolerance; you desire to remove it. You alone can decide whether you will continue this honourable struggle, or give up your own declared wishes and the cause of freedom together.

I had hoped that the gradual and steady progress of opinion in favour of religious and civil liberty would, on this occasion, have influenced their Lordships; that the example of the eminent statesmen of all political parties would have been a guide for them in their deliberations; and that as the leaders of those parties had within the last few years concurred in endeavouring to remove from us every badge of degradation, the House of Peers would have been induced to listen to the suggestions of a more liberal policy, and to defer, in this last instance, to the wishes of the great constituency of London as well as to the opinion of the assembled representatives of England, who have, by constantly increasing majorities, significantly declared their deliberate conviction upon this great question. My hope has been disappointed, and I am now compelled most reluctantly to return you the honourable trust you confided to my care.

Considering your cause and mine as one, and judging of your present feelings by your past kindness and generosity, I do not hesitate again to solicit your suffrages in the coming election; because in my person a principle is to be vindicated, and because I believe that you are prepared to maintain the great constitutional struggle that is before you, with the same vigour and earnestness that you have heretofore evinced. Truth will win its way under your auspices. Your strong convictions will exercise their proper influence upon the determinations of the Legislature, and justice will be done according to the forms, and in the true spirit, of the English Constitution.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful servant,
New-court, June 27. LIONEL ROTHSCHILD.

THE ORLEANS FAMILY.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Orleans, travelling under the name of the Comtesse de Villiers, is expected to arrive in England to-day from the continent, and the Lords of the Treasury have directed the authorities at the places of disembarcation, in London and at Dover, to show Her Royal Highness the respect due to her rank, on her arrival in this country.

ACCIDENT AT BRITANNIA-BRIDGE.—On the evening of Saturday last, wind S.W., the Kitty, Captain Hughes, laden with a general cargo from Liverpool, passed up the Straits, and, when in the vicinity of the recently floated tube, which she neared in order to gain the Carnarvonshire side by a second tack, she suddenly lost the wind, owing to the immense size of the intervening object, and being urged the ... a strong current she struck against the tube. forward ... was broken; but fortunately so as to attach Her main boom ... hold her fast until assistance could be her to the tube, and ... lives nor property to any extent rendered. Luckily neither ... had refused the assistance of were lost. It is said that she ... which the company have a steam tug; notwithstanding ... of her repairs.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Alluding to the trials at the quarter sessions of Castlebar, which terminated on Saturday last, the *Mayo Constitution* observes—

"Boys—little creatures who were only tall enough to see over the rail of the dock—were tried for petty larcenies of food, to which they had been driven by the pangs of hunger. They almost all pleaded 'guilty,' and in the first instance prayed and entreated of the Court to transport them, as they had no means of existence, and should starve before the Poor Law would aid them; and when they frequently found that the humane assistant-barrister hesitated as to what amount of punishment he should inflict after they had already undergone a sufficiently long imprisonment for the offence, they endeavoured to coerce the Court to pass a sentence of transportation, by stating that if sent back to prison they would commit some great crime which would insure their being expatriated. During one of these trials a policeman proved that he had found several of the parties eating seaweed."

THE IRISH REPRESENTATIVE PEERAGE.

Lord Kilmaine has been chosen by a majority of votes to be the Peer to sit in the House of Lords in the room of the late Earl of Gosford.

COMMUNICATION WITH ENGLAND.

The ever-changing Post-office authorities are about to make another alteration in the despatch of the mails from Kingstown to Holyhead. It is arranged, that on and after the 5th of July the morning packet will leave Kingston at half-past 12, instead of five minutes after 11 as at present; and the evening boat will be despatched at half-past 7 instead of half-past 6. By the time the public are familiarized with these arrangements it is more than probable that the whole system of transmission of letters and correspondence will undergo another change, and, if possible, for the less convenience of the parties most interested.

THE CORN TRADE.

At our market to-day the supply was moderate. There was an advance of 6d. to 1s. per barrel on wheat. Oats were fully as dear as on Friday. There was a good demand for Indian corn at our quotations.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
White wheat	24 0 to 27 0	Oatmeal	... 11 6—13 6
Red wheat	... 23 0—24 6	Bakers' flour	... 14 6—16 0
Barley	13 0—14 6	Indian corn (per 480lb.)	... 32 0—37 0
Oats (per barrel)	11 6—13 6		

THE FUNDS.

Three per Cent. Consols, shut, 91⅞ ½, opening; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Stock, 91⅞ ½; Bank Stock, shut; Royal Bank Shares, 10⅞ 11; Wicklow Copper Mine, 8⅛ ¼; Great Southern and Western Railway, 30½.

THE FAMINE IN IRELAND.

A public meeting was held last night at the London Tavern, which, as had been announced, was attended by a deputation from the Royal Exchange Relief Committee, Dublin, for the purpose of laying before the public the condition and prospects of the peasantry of Ireland. The meeting was rather numerously attended; and on the platform there were—Colonel Rawdon, M.P.; Mr. Tenison, M.P.; Mr. Caulfield, M.P.; Mr. O'Flaherty, M.P.; Mr. P. Scrope, M.P.; Mr. Ewart, M.P.; Mr. M'Cullagh, M.P.; Mr. M. J. Blake, M.P.; Mr. Reynolds, M.P.; Mr. O'Connor, M.P.; Mr. E. Burritt, &c.

Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., who was called to the chair, stated, that he had consented to occupy it at the request of the deputation. It was a deputation composed of gentlemen connected politically with various parties, and religiously with different denominations in Ireland—gentlemen with whom he had had no acquaintance (except by name) before this meeting was discussed. They were not here on what might be called vulgarly a begging expedition. (Hear, hear.) They had a higher and more important object—namely, steps for improving the social condition of the people, and securing to them remuneration for their industry. (Hear, hear.) Present relief, however, was imperatively needed by a considerable portion of the population for the period which would elapse before the full ingathering of the harvest—what was called the period between the new and the old provision. (Hear.) Contributions for this purpose would be received by the Relief Committee in Dublin, which was pursuing its labours upon a most admirable system. It had a branch, or local committee, in a very large number of the distressed parishes in the south and west of Ireland; the Roman Catholic priest, the clergyman of the established church, and clergymen and gentlemen of every party in the district, connecting themselves with these sub-committees. Relief was proposed to be given especially to that part of the peasantry who held some portion of land, and who were, in many cases, unable, but for the exertions of this committee, to cultivate that land and make preparation for the harvest. In an advertisement which he had before him relating to the Castlebar Union, he found a statement of the mode in which the committee proceeded. They divided the union into three districts, and appointed three inspectors, who gave their undivided time and attention to the visitation of those who sought relief, reporting from time to time to the committee. When a person was considered a proper object of relief, it was given in money at the rate of 1s. for every member of the family for a fortnight, a certain task of work being appointed to be executed within that period, the object being to stimulate the party to the cultivation of his little plot of ground. (Hear, hear.) The good thus done was very great; this sub-committee stated that it was almost incredible what an extent of land had been cultivated in that union during the three weeks preceding; 1lcwt. of turnip seed were being distributed in the district. (Hear.) The Dublin Committee had expended above 3,000*l.*, which had been subscribed within a short period in Ireland. (Hear.) The committee was in real working order; and its object was not an indiscriminate almsgiving (hear), than which nothing could be more destructive in the end. (Hear.) Here was an opportunity for accomplishing by contributions a greater amount of good than probably at any former period since Ireland had been stricken by famine. (Hear, hear.)

A letter was read from Mr. Cobden, M.P., apologizing for his unavoidable absence, and adding—

"The chief advantage which I anticipate from your meeting is, that it will convince the benevolent gentlemen who have visited us from Ireland, and through them the Irish people, of the strong sympathy felt for their sufferings by the citizens of London. For, after all, it is in Parliament alone that we can remove those obstructions which impede the application of capital and labour to the agriculture of Ireland, and which forbid its people to hope by industry and economy to become to a greater extent proprietors of the land of their birth. To facilitate these objects, without which all other remedial measures will, in my humble judgment, fail, I am prepared to co-operate with the friends of Ireland zealously and continuously in the house, and with as sincere a desire to do justice to my fellow countrymen in Tipperary as if they were my own constituents in Yorkshire."

The members of the deputation were then called upon to address the meeting.

The Rev. Dr. MILEY said that he had been requested by his colleagues to state to the meeting the objects which the deputation had in coming to London; but after the speech which had been delivered by the chairman it was almost superfluous for him to enter into a detailed narrative on the subject. The objects of the deputation were the same by which the few individuals were actuated who first set on foot that relief committee at the request of which they now addressed the meeting. They did not do so from any hope to be able to cope with the misfortunes of their countrymen. At the outset they were conscious of the existence of a calamity far surpassing any efforts which it was in their power to make. The indisposition in England could not be greater than it was in Ireland two months ago, to believe that, after suffering three famines, the Irish people were on the threshold of a fourth, worse than any they had yet encountered. (Hear, hear.) Men then thought that it was better almost to dissemble the extent of the evil; and it was not until the repeated entreaties made for assistance came fully home to them, that persons were induced to come together, and that their relief committee was founded. They had made every effort, and these efforts had been responded to most zealously by the city of Dublin. That city was divided into districts, collectors were appointed, and each day brought in subscriptions to the amount of about 100*l.*, to be placed at the disposal of the committee. (Hear, hear.) The committee determined to obtain the most accurate statements as to the real condition of the people in the distressed localities, and for that purpose they issued a set of queries, addressed to the clergy of all denominations in the south and west of Ireland. These were:—1. State the number of the population in your parish in 1844; 2. State that number in 1849, and, as far as possible, the number of deaths by destitution; 3. State the proportion of marriages and births as compared with 1844; 4. State the number of houses levelled, from emigration or other causes; 5. State the amount of arable land under cultivation as compared with former years; 6. State the amount of employment available for the able bodied poor; 7. State the classes of employment; 8. State the amount of wages from and in 1844; 9. State the number of people on the out-door relief lists; 10. State the amount and quality of their rations, what the mode of giving is, on what condition the rations are administered, and the number of miles the recipients have to come for them. The object of these questions was to elicit the most accurate account of the condition of the people in the most afflicted localities. The committee also invited persons who visited Dublin from those localities to communicate with them on the condition of the districts where they resided; and the result of those efforts had been that an immense amount of information of the most authentic kind had been collected, which brought home the conviction that no power of language could describe the extent of the destitution, or the intensity of the sufferings of the vast masses subjected to it. (Hear, hear.) Even if the committee had not at the outset determined to resort to England for the purpose which had brought them there, the intelligence thus received would have left them no alternative. They were not insensible to the sacrifice which must be made of that wretched pride to which none of us were strangers. From past occurrences, and from some that were still recent, they were not insensible of the inconveniences attending the application they had to make; but, although the ordeal they had to pass was ten times more severe than they had found it, no alternative would be left but to make the effort, because, being silent under the circumstances, they could not have acquitted themselves of the blood of those poor people left to die through their neglect. (Cheers.) Where could they go but to the capital of the empire, not more renowned for its opulence than its benevolence? According to the law and constitution of England, the body of any single individual, as to the cause of whose death there was a doubt, could not be consigned to the earth without an inquest. Had they been silent on the subject of this enormous distress, how could they have acquitted themselves of a heavy responsibility—knowing as they did that not one, nor a hundred, but tens of thousands of their fellow countrymen were liable to fall victims to that monstrous famine which was spreading death through the south and west of Ireland. The deputation had come to London entirely on their own resources. They had come to solicit, with intense anxiety, succour for that class—the heroes of industry—the champions of unrequited labour, who, during the last seed time, under the pangs of hunger, had been known to go to bed to sleep off their sufferings, and rising in the morning, refreshed, not by food, to go forth to till their gardens and plots of ground again. (Cheers.) These men had been known to pawn everything belonging to them that could be turned into pelf in order to have seed for the coming harvest. (Cheers.) They were there to crave assistance that these men's hopes might not be frustrated—that they who had suffered so much to lift themselves from a state of destitution and be no longer a burden on relief lists, might not be suffered to perish. (Cheers.) It would be impossible to bring forward in detail any project, or to attempt to state the data for solving the problem of Irish distress; but were an opportunity afforded they would not shrink from making suggestions which would be found sufficient for the remedy of the present disastrous evils. If the cause of Ireland was taken up by the benevolently disposed, and by those who were free from prejudices—if it was taken up as negro emancipation had been, the deputation felt confidence in the resources of the soil, and the correlative resources of the people of Ireland, and believed that the redemption of that race was not only possible but easy. There were multitudes of men in Ireland able to point out the evils from which the people suffered; but without hearty and systematic support from the people of this country the application of a remedy never could be secure. (Cheers.) It was an Anglo-Irish interest by which Ireland alone could be relieved. (Cheers.) The enormous wealth of England, and the dreadful poverty of Ireland, were now in direct antagonism. To avoid the contest was impossible, unless statesmanlike measures of redress were adopted. In the course of that contest things would happen for which posterity might have to weep tears of blood. Even now the people of England felt the poverty of Ireland; in their taxes—in the prevalence of disease—in the labour market—it was forcing itself upon them. (Cheers.) Year after year they saw it coming to their doors, importunately craving for what it should not be under the necessity to demand. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. KING, the rector of Kilmore, next addressed the meeting.—The west and south of Ireland, he said, realized the description of Goldsmith in his "Deserted Village," and the people looked back on their former condition as only too happy. That fortunate change in the law which permitted the ingress of foreign corn had acted most favourably for Ireland in her distress, and so had the large public benevolence of this country; but hundreds of people had died from the negligence and harshness of those whose official duty it was to distribute those funds; and it was to meet this state of things that the resources of private charity were principally directed. They were also directed to the relief of cases not comprehended in the operation of the Poor Law. He described the Irish peasantry as the most thankful, humble-minded, contented people on the face of the earth, and most willing to work if they had it. Something of a practical nature must be done to secure employment. The soil cried out for it, and the desire of the people as to wages was of the lowest character. Last spring he had paid 2d. a day for men and 1½d. for women, being afraid to offer more, or he would have had the whole country upon him. As it was, he was overwhelmed with such numbers that he had to reduce the wages from 2d. to 1d. Even then he could not get rid of them, for in great crowds they pressed their services upon him, even for nothing; and many of them whom he employed in removing bramble bushes from a part of his ground actually insisted on doing so with their bare hands, which streamed with blood from the thorns which pricked them. Yet Irish people were called indolent. He concluded by expressing his earnest desire to see English capital invested in the purchase of land in Ireland.

The Rev. Mr. HARDIMAN, a minister of the Roman Catholic church, residing in the neighbourhood of Westport, stated, that in 1841 the population of the parish, which consisted of the two electoral divisions of Kilmeena and Kilmaclahagh, was 11,419; in 1844 it must have been 12,000; it was now 7,000. (Hear.) Of these 7,000, there were 4,000 receiving outdoor relief—if relief it could be called—and employed on the infamous and degrading occupation of stone-breaking, instead of useful work. (Hear, hear.) There, in a small place which we should hardly call a cabin, he had found 18 human beings who had been unhoused by the landlords (hear), and who had neither blanket, nor bed, nor roof that would keep out the rain; six or seven were in fever, the rest in dysentery, and there was no medical aid; yet they were upon what was termed "relief" (hear); a few days disposed of all save three. (Hear, hear.) He had known many instances of families nominally upon outdoor "relief," going to bed to appease the gnawings of hunger. (Hear.) In that parish 500 houses had been levelled to the ground by the landlords. (Shame.) Yet, among these people were men who had pawned their shoes or their coat to buy seed for their land; surely, such men ought to be encouraged. (Hear, hear.)

A resolution, expressing sympathy with the sufferings of the small farmers and peasantry, was then moved by Mr. EWART, M.P., and seconded by Mr. CHRISTY; and the following committee were appointed to receive subscriptions for aiding them, the amount to be transmitted to the Royal Exchange Committee, Dublin:—Mr. H. Christy, Mr. G. W. Alexander, Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. J. Tritton, Mr. P. Scrope, M.P., Mr. R. Godley, Mr. W. Bennett, Mr. C. Gilpin, Mr. Ewart, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P. It was announced that subscriptions might be paid to Messrs. Barclay and Co., Lombard-street; or Messrs. Coutts, Strand.

A second resolution, moved by Mr. P. SCROPE, M.P., and seconded by Mr. G. W. ALEXANDER, recognised the necessity of energetic action to elevate the condition of the Irish people, and enable them to maintain themselves by the exercise of the industry that had characterised them whenever placed in circumstances favourable to its development; which object could be materially advanced by measures for removing the obstacles that impeded the application of labour and capital to the soil, and securing to the occupier the enjoyment of the fruits of his industry. Both resolutions were carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was also carried, moved by Sir J. PERRY of Dublin, and seconded by Mr. BERMINGHAM.

During the latter portion of the proceedings several attempts had been made by other persons than those above named to address the meeting; but the Chairman insisted on keeping to the order of proceedings which had been arranged by the committee. Having now arrived at the close of the business, he announced that he had received notes from eight individuals, stating their wish to speak. As it was between 10 and 11 o'clock he should prefer closing the meeting; but if it was wished that these parties should be heard, he would stay as long as it was the pleasure of the meeting. Some confusion arose upon this question, and there was a strong disposition among a considerable number to hear what the persons alluded to had to say. But some of them, encouraged by the manifestations of this inclination, began to press their claim, and to indicate the importance of the topics they purposed to discuss. One proposed to open up "the landlord and parson question;" and another was particularly anxious to lay before the meeting "a remedy" for the ills of Ireland. The very comprehensive nature of the subjects announced completely changed the disposition of the meeting, and Mr. Bright took advantage of the change to declare, with general concurrence, that the proceedings were closed.

THE STEAM NAVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I do not know who Mr. Scott Portland is, but he knows so little about his subject that his letter is hardly worth answering.

If he had asked Captain Chads, who I presume is better authority than his instructor, he would have told him that it is not easy to knock away a funnel, and experiments to that effect have been tried on board the Excellent; and if he had asked Captain Ellis, he would have told him, that in going into action the steam chest is cut off from the boilers, and the engine is supplied with low steam from the latter: he would have told him, also, that the boilers (following the example of the Sidon) are as much below the water line as the crown of the magazine is in frigates, and much more than in corvettes; but, suppose they were as much exposed as Mr. Scott Portland thinks, I should like to know from him whether 20 steam frigates, mounting 32 guns each, would not destroy the funnels and boilers of 20 steamers mounting six or eight guns, much sooner than they would if equally matched.

He says, one of two things must be done—either the ship must be built first, or the engine. He is again wrong: the whole must be done in concert, or they will not agree. The engine becomes an integral part of the ship, as much as any other part of her; and so the Committee of the House of Commons thought, though Mr. Scott Portland thinks it extraordinary.

Whether the engineer who made the Retribution engines deceived the Admiralty or not, I will leave to himself to explain; but I believe I am correct in saying that the engines of the Retribution and Terrible are on the same plan, and, I believe, made by the same man, and nearly at the same time. The boilers are different, which renders four funnels necessary in the Terrible, which is a very great defect.

I shall not enter into a controversy about the qualities of the Terrible and Sidon; all the reports are at the Admiralty, and they know well enough the good and bad qualities of both.

I am much pleased at the high respect Mr. Scott Portland has for my cousin, Sir Charles Napier, the General, and much distressed at his want of respect for the Admiral; but I take leave to observe that has nothing to do either with the construction of steam vessels or the defence of the country; and I think, had he left out the latter part of his letter, it would have been more creditable to himself, and given him more weight with the public.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES NAPIER.

Merchistoun-hall, June 26.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—BIRMINGHAM, Wednesday.—A fatal accident occurred to Mr. Hill, jun. (of the firm of Hill, Hoof, and Hill, contractors on the Birmingham and Stour Valley Railway), last night. On his return from Great Bridge, where the recent colliery explosion took place, to his residence at Handsworth, near this town, Mr. Hill was thrown from his horse and killed on the spot. An inquest is to be held this evening.

THE LATE SCOTTISH FETE.—The "stick-play" exhibited at the Scottish *fête* in Holland-park on Wednesday and Thursday last showed what the instructions of the sword exercise, introduced and formed for the army by Mr. Angelo, are capable of in rendering our soldiers expert swordsmen, when the practice of their preliminary drills is followed up by substituting the stick for the sword, as the foil is in fencing. To show the efficiency and force with which most of our cavalry soldiers can now use their sword —for this has been the main object of the instructions—it would perhaps have been as well if the performers on Thursday last, those of the Household Brigade especially, had given a specimen of it by going through the regular exercise with their own swords, when it would have been seen that most of them would have been as equally capable of cutting through the bars of lead as Mr. Bushman, who, like other non-commissioned officers and men from the cavalry regiments, has had the opportunity of following up his military drill, and of ultimately being trained by Mr. Angelo as an assistant in his school of arms.

METROPOLITAN SEWERS.

TO THE RIGHT HON. AND HON. THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—The Survey Committee having, at their meeting on the 15th inst., passed resolutions in reference to the drainage of Westminster, approving in effect the suggestions of Mr. Austin's report of February, 1848, it becomes my duty, as your chief surveyor, to warn you against attempting to execute the works therein contemplated, as I have no hesitation in stating that they are wholly impracticable, and are unworthy the objects which should be kept in view for the perfect drainage of this great metropolis.

Many large and populous metropolitan and suburban districts are now without any drainage, while the public are suffering greatly in consequence, and the drainage of many other districts is in so fearful a condition as to demand at the hands of the commission immediate measures of relief, and the public are daily and justly expressing dissatisfaction at the want of energy exhibited by the commission.

I should hesitate to address you were I not satisfied that it is time for me to speak out, both for the credit of the Court and for the reputation of its officers, since, at the last meeting of the Court, it was publicly announced that a three-feet pipe would carry off the drainage of the whole of the metropolis. This statement is repeated in the daily papers, and is passing through the provinces with more than usual rapidity. Such an announcement, bearing the sanction of the Court, contrary as it is to fact and to all observation, is calculated to bring the commission into ridicule and to destroy public confidence both in the Court and its advisers.

The following passage is amongst the conclusions of the first report of the Sanitary Commission in 1847:—

"The more the investigation advances the more it is apparent that the progressive improvement and proper execution of this class of public works, together with the appliances of hydraulic engineering, cannot reasonably be expected to be dealt with incidentally or collaterally to ordinary occupation, or even to connected professional pursuits, but require a degree of special study, which not only places them beyond the sphere of discussion of popular administrative bodies, but beyond that of ordinary professional engineering and architectural practice.

"In justification of this conclusion, and to show the evil of the perverted application of names of high general professional authority, we might adduce examples of the most defective works which have received their sanction.

"All the improvements which the public have yet obtained in this branch of public works have been the result of the special and undivided practical attention of well qualified paid officers, and it appears to us that further improvement must be sought by the same means, and that one of the chief objects of future administrative arrangements must be to secure, protect, and encourage the zealous undivided attention and efficient labour of such officers."

I had, therefore, good reason to hope that long ere this the great question of the drainage of the metropolis would have been referred to the surveyors for their undivided attention and report, but the Survey Committee have ordered plans and estimates involving general principles, by which, without any reference to their chief surveyor, the Court may be committed to a course of action of an experimental and most costly nature, the results of which it is impossible to foresee.

For many weighty reasons, one of which is, that the discharge of the sewage must, especially in rainy weather, be ultimately into the Thames, far above the present point at which the waters are already polluted, I feel called upon to represent to you that I entirely disapprove of the contemplated mode of operations. The "converging system" cannot prevent the pollution of the river, which can only be completely protected from each day's accumulations by means of a tunnel sewer.

Instead of limiting the attention of the Court to minor matters and piecemeal work, such as the drainage of a detached and separate district, to the advantage of a three-inch over a four-inch pipe, or to the shape of a watercloset pan, the energy of the commission and its officers surely should in the first instance have been concentrated on the selection of a sound and thoroughly practical and intelligent plan for providing an efficient outfall, entirely independent of the Thames, for the complete and permanent drainage of the whole of the districts within the jurisdiction of the commission.

Having been thus compelled to thrust myself upon the notice of the Court and of the public, and having intimated my objections to the proposed "converging system," it will necessarily be expected that I should state my own views of what ought to be done to meet the urgent necessities of the case.

I propose that about 20 miles of tunnel sewer should be constructed in a slightly and uniformly curved direction, following the general course of, and in respect to sewage, as a substitute for the river, from Kingston, on the western, to the Kent or Essex marshes, on the eastern, extremity of the jurisdiction of the Court, at such a depth in the blue clay formation, say 100 feet below the bed of the river, as would render it independent of all barriers, whether it be the river itself, the Rotherhithe Tunnel, the docks, or any other difficulties hitherto suggested.

This work, the cost of which has been grossly exaggerated, may be extended up the river to intercept the sewage of the towns above, which at present pollute the stream, and down the river, as future occasion may require, possibly even to the sea coast. Views less comprehensive than this should not, I submit, be entertained while considering the foundation of a plan for perfectly and permanently draining the metropolis and the entire valley of the Thames, upon the banks of which such a metropolis is situate. But at present the plan embraces only that part of the line before described which lies between the river below Greenwich up to the King's Scholars' Pond main sewer at Pimlico, a distance of about six miles. Such a work will be as constantly in action as the river, cannot get out of repair, and will endure for ages, is simple, economical, and efficient, and will be readily understood and appreciated by the public. It will afford relief at once and alike to all the districts lying below the level of the Thames, and which are now suffering from pent-up filth, and drainage in the sewers and open ditches which abound in these extensive districts.

This tunnel sewer will manifestly afford a deep, permanent, and efficient outfall for the effectual drainage of the whole of the low, flat, and densely-populated townships and parishes of Hampton, Teddington, Twickenham, Isleworth, Brentford, Acton, Ealing, Chiswick, Hammersmith, Kensington, Fulham, Chelsea, Brompton, Pimlico, and the city of Westminster to the westward, as well as to Wapping, Ratcliff, Shadwell, Limehouse, Poplar, Blackwall, and Bromley, to the eastward, on the north side of the Thames.

On the south side of the river the tunnel would pass through Lambeth, Southwark, Bermondsey, the lower part of Rotherhithe, and Greenwich, affording facilities for the complete drainage of Kingston, Ham, Petersham, Richmond, Kew, Mortlake, Barnes, Putney, Wandsworth, Battersea, Clapham, Camberwell, Newington, Walworth, Peckham, Hatcham, Deptford, Greenwich, Woolwich, and all the hamlets and suburban villages contiguous to these places, on the south side of the river.

These works stand independently as regards their immediate execution of the Ordnance survey (which is merely a superficial work), or any other preliminaries, and require but a few weeks of levelling and boring preparatory to the actual commencement of the work, and the six miles of tunnel itself might be completed by the end of next year.

I propose that this tunnel should carry off the whole of the house drainage and other waters which at present compose the ordinary flow of the London sewers in fine weather. As the separation of the house drainage from the surface water extends, this quantity would be diminished, and with a constant supply of water would become more regular; there would then be provision for the drainage of the towns above; the capacity of a tunnel for such a purpose I estimate would be 8 feet at Greenwich and 6 feet in diameter at Pimlico, instead of a 3 feet pipe, as has been stated to be sufficient. The sewage would be brought to suitable reservoirs or receptacles below Greenwich, pumped up by steam power, and used either in a liquid or a solid state, or both, as may be hereafter determined.

An important feature in this plan is, that the sewage may be raised and disposed of at any point or points of the line of tunnel, where it could be profitably applied for agricultural purposes, at any season of the year.

I do not hesitate to assert that the cost of the tunnel, including pumps and machinery, will not be so great as that of the sumps or cesspools and discharging branches of the "converging system," and the annual expenditure and maintenance of machinery with the staff of engineers at each of the numerous stations required by that system will, with the one exception of the engine at the outlet, be entirely saved.

The six miles of tunnel herein proposed would cost under 200,000*l.*, and if the Court were to give 50,000*l.* for the first mile of tunnel, I would undertake to get the remainder executed by contract for 26,000*l.* per mile.

A single rate of 7d. in the pound would produce the amount required, and if this were spread over 22 years an annual rate for that period of one farthing in the pound would suffice to pay the principal and interest.

I have the honour, &c.,
JOHN PHILLIPS, Chief Surveyor.

1, Greek-street, Soho-square, June 21.

THE STATE PRISONERS.—Smith O'Brien and the other three State prisoners will be sent to Van Diemen's Land in Her Majesty's ship Swift, ordered to the Pacific station.

MR. MACREADY.—BIRMINGHAM, Wednesday.—Mr. Macready appeared for the first time in England since his return from North America at our theatre last night. The reception of Mr. Macready was most enthusiastic. The house was crowded, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs greeted his appearance. Mrs. Warner was the Lady Macbeth.

LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.

At the 27th, and "positively the last" of these entertainments for the present season, Mr. Stammers went out of his usual path, and abandoning the exclusively popular style, courageously attempted the music of Mendelssohn in *Antigone*. The announcement of this serious and classical production did not deter the patrons of the Wednesday Concerts from attending in large numbers, and Exeter-hall was crowded in every part some time before the performance began. The excellent concert band of Mr. Willy was largely reinforced for the occasion, a complete and efficient body of professional choristers were engaged, and Mr. Sterndale Bennett was appointed conductor. Under the superintendence of this accomplished musician, who enjoyed so long an intimacy with Mendelssohn, and is so familiarly acquainted with his works, there could be little doubt that the performance would be everything the executive means placed at his disposal would admit. The result was in all respects gratifying. The execution of the music was generally excellent, and the attention of the audience undiminished until the end. The overture was played with great effect. The choruses that excited most applause were the beautiful legend, "Royal Danaë long lived in a tower" (in E minor), and the magnificent hymn to Bacchus, "Fair Semele's highborn son," the latter of which, sung with remarkable power and decision, was loudly encored. The elaborate instrumental accompaniments in the two great scenes of Antigone and Creon, with the intervening and responding choruses, were also most forcibly executed. Mr. Sterndale Bennett conducted throughout with the utmost point and clearness, and there was scarcely one instance of hesitation or uncertainty in the musical accompaniments to the dialogues and soliloquies. Mr. Bartholomew's translation of the German version of Sophocles' play, with a few unimportant abbreviations and omissions, was recited by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Mr. Vandenhoff (Creon), Miss Vandenhoff (Antigone), Miss Huddart (Ismene), Mr. Stuart (Tiresias), Mr. Lloyd (Hæmon), Mr. George Bennett (Phocion), and Mr. Smythson (chorus-speaker), who all zealously exerted themselves to give the utmost force to the text, and by helping the audience to enter more completely into the meaning of the music, enable them to enjoy its beauties with the greater zest. The only point during the entire performance that called for particular animadversion was the quartet, "O Eros, all conquering power," in which the wind instruments were at times unsteady and the voices somewhat out of tune. The applause at the end of *Antigone*, which occupied considerably more than an hour and a half, was loud and general. The complete success of a work so profound, and so little calculated to conciliate what is generally set down (whether rightly or wrongly we are not prepared to say) as the popular taste, before one of the vast audiences of the Wednesday Concerts, is a sign of the times not to be disregarded, and worth the consideration of directors of all great public musical entertainments of a mixed kind.

The second part of the concert, beginning with the overture to *Guillaume Tell*, the last movement of which was repeated, and ending with the national anthem, offered little to differ from the usual character of these performances. The principal and most interesting feature was a selection from Spohr's *Faust*, consisting of the air, "Liebe ist die zarte Blüthe," expressively sung by Pischek, the grand recitative and aria, "Die stille Nacht," by Miss Lucombe, and the fine *scena* of Mephistopheles, "Stille noch dies Wuth-verlangen," superbly sung by Herr Formes, who made his first appearance at these concerts, and experienced a hearty reception. A fragment of the celebrated trio from *Guillaume Tell*, by Mr. Sims Reeves, Herr Pischek, and Herr Formes, was also a highly effective performance; and a very agreeable sea-song, "The Mariners," composed by Mr. Hogarth, to some verses of Allan Cunningham, which Mr. Sims Reeves gave with great spirit, was loudly applauded. Miss Poole sang several of her popular ballads in her own quiet and attractive style; Mrs. A. Newton, cleverly accompanied by Mr. Carte in the flute *obligato*, was deservedly well received in "Lo here the gentle lark;" and Mademoiselle Jetty Treffz was, as usual, obliged to sing "Comin' thro' the rye" twice over, by general request. The only instrumental solo performance was a *tarantella* by Döhler, for pianoforte and violin, which was brilliantly executed by Miss Ellen Day, and her brother, Mr. John Day. The concert was rather shorter than usual, and the miscellaneous part was all the more grateful from its marked contrast with the graver and more substantial entertainment that preceded it.

HERR DREYSCHOCK'S CONCERT.

Since Herr Dreyschock first visited England, in 1843, his progress has been remarkable. He was then considered by the most competent judges a player of great executive powers, but his style was pronounced unfinished, and his warmest partisans hardly ventured to place him in the first rank of modern pianists. He has, however, brought his talent to maturity; what before was uncertain in his playing he has thoroughly mastered, and he is now fairly entitled to a place among the most gifted and accomplished performers of his class. He belongs essentially to the school of Liszt, but in many respects, as far as manual dexterity goes, he has outstripped his model. His extraordinary command of octaves, the strength and agility of his left hand, his easy grasp of the widest extensions, in every variety and in rapid succession, and the neatness and facility with which he accomplishes the most perilous skips and other *tours de force* of a purely mechanical nature, have been rivalled by few and surpassed by none. In short, in his way, Herr Dreyschock is at present one of the wonders of the pianoforte, and it is difficult to imagine how much farther than he has brought it the executive art can be carried. At his concert yesterday, in the Hanover-square Rooms, there was a crowded audience, among whom were observed a great number of well-known professors and amateurs of the instrument, anxious to hear and judge of the merits of this new phenomenon.

Herr Dreyschock appeared five times during the concert, and began, somewhat boldly for a pianist exclusively attached to what has been so unreasonably termed "the romantic school," with Beethoven's sonata in C sharp minor (Op. 29). The quiet and unaffected way in which he played this beautiful composition, giving to each movement its appropriate expression, with very little extravagance, unless in certain capricious modifications of the *tempi* (a prevailing fault with pianists of Herr Dreyschock's order, who seem ill at ease except when engaged in unprecedented difficulties), at once established him in the favour of the audience. His next performance consisted of three pieces in succession, two of his own and one of Mendelssohn's. The first of these, a prelude and fugue, pleased us less than anything else. Herr Dreyschock's notion of a fugue differs materially from that of Handel and Sebastian Bach, and as Mozart and Mendelssohn followed those great models in their fugal essays, we are obliged to condemn Herr Dreyschock's fugue as a delusion. The clearness and decision of his execution, however, told with the audience, to the majority of whom the form and intention of a fugue were doubtless mysteries, and Herr Dreyschock was compelled by general desire to repeat it. The second piece was the melody in E major (No. 1 of the first book of the *Lieder ohne worte*), one of Mendelssohn's most happy inspirations; into the spirit of this Herr Dreyschock entered heartily, and his performance was worthy of the music. The third *morceau* of the chain, entitled "*Rhapsodie*," offered a very favourable example of Herr Dreyschock's talent as a composer; this was an *agitato* movement, with an episode, in the major key, of a more tranquil character, and a *coda*, introducing florid passages of octaves for both hands. The performance of this was a tremendous exhibition of strength and rapidity of execution. The flexibility of wrist demonstrated in the utterance of the octaves was astonishing, and delicacy and neatness went hand in hand with force, to complete the effect. The *Rhapsodie* was enthusiastically encored, but it would have been literally impossible for Herr Dreyschock to repeat it without an interval of rest, and he contented himself with returning to the platform, bowing his acknowledgments to the audience. The third performance of Herr Dreyschock consisted of a lengthy and somewhat rambling piece, in no particular form, called *L'Inquietude*, the most striking passage in which was a rapid and extremely difficult *arpeggio* for the left hand, accomplished with surprising certainty and power. The fourth included a very elegant and pleasing *nocturne* (No. 2), leading to an *Allegro con brio*, full of *bravura* passages of unexampled difficulty; both were played admirably. The fifth and last performance comprised three pieces:—a *bluette*, so called, which, if facility be a characteristic of *bluettes*, was strangely misnamed; a *saltarelle*, a clever and unusually original *morceau* in the *tarantella* school; and variations on "God save the Queen," for the left-hand *solus*. The *saltarelle*, in which velocitous triplet passages for the right hand were executed with singular neatness, accompanied by skips, and chords, widely distributed, for the left, was unanimously encored and repeated. The variations on the national anthem, for outrageous difficulty and the dexterous manner in which they were achieved, find no parallel in our remembrance. The most inexplicable was the third, in which the theme was given out in octaves, while a rapid *arpeggio*, up and down the key-board, was incessantly carried on; the power and certainty with which the octaves were struck, and the unfailing sureness and equality of the *arpeggios*, were equally worthy of remark. Altogether Herr Dreyschock's performance yesterday must be esteemed one of the events of the season, and produced a sensation that will not be easily forgotten by the numerous admirers of the modern school of pianoforte playing.

Some vocal pieces, by Mademoiselles Jetty Treffz and Agnes Bühring, Herrn Pischek and Stigelli, diversified the concert, and gave Herr Dreyschock breathing time. The only remarkable novelty was a barcarole, "La Veneziana," by M. Panofka, a very musician-like and charming composition. Mademoiselle Jetty Treffz, for whom, according to the bills, it was expressly written, and for whose voice and style it is well fitted, sang it with the utmost grace and animation, and was warmly applauded. Mr. Benedict presided as accompanist at the pianoforte, with his accustomed talent.

INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.—Yesterday the annual examination of the children belonging to the Infant Orphan Asylum took place at Wanstead. It was conducted by the Bishop of London, in the school-room of the asylum, which, on the occasion, was filled with visitors. The examination was almost entirely confined to religious subjects, and, as might be expected from the tender age of the children, it was entirely of an elementary character. Still all the questions were answered with great smartness and intelligence, and altogether the exhibition was a very satisfactory and interesting one, as the right rev. prelate at the close of it took care to state. The company having inspected the state of the asylum, and having admired, as they were bound to do, the great beauty, comfort, and cleanliness of its internal arrangements, sat down to an elegant *déjeûner*, over which his Grace the Duke of Argyle presided. His Grace performed the duties of the chair in an admirable manner, and in proposing prosperity to the asylum expressed himself with great warmth and feeling upon its claims to public support. During the course of the entertainments Mr. Buckler, the secretary, announced a list of subscriptions amounting in all to more than 1,000*l.*, and containing the munificent donation of 250*l.* from Miss Burdett Coutts, who was present, and sat on the right hand of the chairman. This excellent charity now supports 329 children, all cast upon its care at a very tender age. Its finances are in a prosperous condition, and the committee of management state, that by a still further increase of subscriptions they will be enabled to receive nearly 100 additional inmates. It is to be hoped that the wished-for increase may soon be realized.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

FLEETWOOD, PRESTON, AND WEST-RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY.

An adjourned meeting of this company was held at Preston yesterday, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee of investigation. Mr. T. B. Addison presided.

Captain CLEATHER read the report, which stated that the committee had inspected the line and works in progress, and were satisfied with them throughout. They entertained a strong hope that when the junction is completed with the Lancaster and Preston and Preston and Wyre Railways, so as to form a connexion with the great trunk lines to Liverpool, such an amount of receipts will accrue as will not only meet the liability due to the Longridge Company, but give a dividend to the Fleetwood, Preston, and West-Riding Company. The committee expressed their deep regret that so many shareholders should have failed to meet their engagements, and urged upon the directors the propriety of taking decisive steps for the recovery of all arrears. The committee felt it to be due to the board to state that there could be no doubt those gentlemen had been actuated by the strictest integrity, and a proper regard for the interest of the proprietory throughout the whole of their proceedings. (Applause).

The report of Mr. C. H. Cope, the accountant, bore testimony to the accuracy of the company's accounts.

Mr. GREIG, of Manchester, moved that the report of the committee be received and adopted. He was of opinion that if the shareholders paid up their arrears as they ought to do, there would be sufficient money to pay all the debts owing by this company. He hoped those who had passed their shares into the hands of parties altogether irresponsible and utterly unable to pay any call that might be made would take back those shares into their own names. (Applause.)

Mr. HORROCKS seconded the motion, and it was carried *nem. dis.*

Thanks were voted to the committee of inquiry for their valuable services, and to the chairman and board of directors; after which the meeting separated.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM EXTENSION AND NORTHAMPTON, DAVENTRY, LEAMINGTON, AND WARWICK RAILWAY.

Yesterday the appointment of an official manager to superintend the winding up of the affairs of this company, projected in 1845, with a proposed capital of 500,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 25*l.* each, came on for hearing before Mr. Wingfield, one of the Masters in Chancery, at his chambers in Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

There was a numerous attendance, including counsel, of parties interested in the proceedings, and after a prolonged discussion, the Master intimated that Mr. Henry Croysdill, of Church-court, Old Jewry, was appointed official manager, and the Court was adjourned for the settlement of the list of contributors liable under the act. The liabilities to be liquidated amount to 10,000*l.*

BRIGHTON, LEWES, AND HASTINGS RAILWAY.

Sir W. Horne, one of the Masters in Chancery, has appointed Mr. Henry James Norris, of 22, Upper Gower-street, to be official manager in the winding up of this company's affairs. The petitions for this purpose are presented by Lord Alfred Hervey, M.P., Mr. Hervey Jones, and Mr. W. B. James, and set forth that the scheme was registered on the 6th of September, 1845; proposed capital, 350,000*l.*, in 17,500 shares of 20*l.* each, with a deposit of 2*l.* 2s. The pecuniary liabilities amount to 4,280*l.*, and the assets to only 700*l.* The amount that was payable by deposit on shares allotted was 35,700*l.* Only 3,486*l.* was paid, leaving 32,216*l.* unpaid.

NORTHAMPTON, LINCOLN, AND HULL DIRECT RAILWAY.

Sir W. Horne has appointed Mr. W. Cook Spiller to be official manager in the winding up of this company's affairs, which was projected in September, 1845, with a proposed capital of 2,000,000*l.* It appears from the petitions, which are unusually voluminous, that there were some 200 provisional committeemen and 2,300 subscribers for various numbers of shares; that the present unpaid debts for surveys, engineering, and preliminary expenses were from 10,000*l.* to 15,000*l.*, and that actions are still pending against the directors individually for their liquidation.

ROYAL ASSENT TO RAILWAY BILLS.

During the present session of Parliament the Royal assent has been given to nine railway bills, by which existing companies are authorized to raise in the aggregate additional capital to the extent of 1,546,500*l.*, and to borrow 572,165*l.*, total 2,118,665*l.* The greater part of this money is required for the purpose of completing works already sanctioned. The sum authorized to be raised for the construction of new works does not exceed 110,000*l.*

EDINBURGH AND NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Traffic for the week ending June 23, 1849:—

Passengers, horses, and carriages ...	£1,261 14 3
Merchandise, minerals, live stock, &c. ...	797 14 3
Total	£2,059 8 6
Corresponding week last year	1,505 14 3
Increase	£553 14 3

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—On perusing your report of the adjourned inquest on a poor woman who died of cholera in Griffith's-rents, it is stated that Mr. Slee said that the parish of St. John's had repeatedly endeavoured to purchase a portion of Griffith's-rents, with a view of removing it, which report is inaccurate. Mr. Slee said at the inquest, in our hearing, that the parish had offered to purchase houses in the neighbourhood of Griffith's-rents, but did not say a word about offering to purchase Griffith's-rents. We then requested to know of him what the parish would give for Griffith's-rents, as the freeholders were willing to sell them, and had never received an offer either from the parish or any one else; to which Mr. Slee made no reply.

The fact is, the freeholders have been expecting one of the railway companies to take them, as they have done several houses in the immediate vicinity belonging to the same estate.

Your insertion of this letter in your widely-spread journal will oblige, Sir,

Your very obedient servants,
CHESTER and SON,
Solicitors for the freeholders of Griffith's-rents.
1, Church-row, Newington, Surrey, June 27.

THE SLAVE TRADE POLICY OF ENGLAND.

The following letter from the Western Coast of Africa gives a picture of the results of our slave trade policy, which, though drawn by no favourable hand, is yet, we believe, in the main correct:—

(From the *Weser Zeitung*.)

You have desired me to give you some account of the measures which England takes for the suppression of the slave trade, the reports in the English papers being such that no implicit reliance can be placed upon them. I will, therefore, state to you a few of the facts which have come to my knowledge during the last few months. They will enable you to get a clear view of the state of affairs, and the chances of security for life and property of the traders on this part of the coast.

The Fame, and the Seymour Taylor, two British vessels, which in October, 1848, were to be sent from Sierra Leone to the British West Indies with a cargo of so-called "free emigrants," lay, with a number of emigrants or slaves that had been sent on board shortly after the arrival of the vessels, above four weeks in the harbour of Sierra Leone. The reason of this delay was the impossibility of procuring the full number of what they please to call "passengers." There was indeed a large number of them in the Queen's slave-yard, but the slaves refused to quit Africa, and, in spite of all the persuasions of the British agent, and, indeed, in spite of a liberal distribution of victuals and drink, but a very few could be induced to go on board. All means were found unavailing, and, as the vessels could not remain any longer, a lot of blacks, sufficient to make up for the deficiencies of the cargo, were put into British uniforms and marched on board with a strong escort of troops. The smaller boys and girls, from 6 to 12 years of age, had already been shipped as free emigrants. It is hard to conceive how these children could be made to understand the object and the manner of their emigration.

Slavers with their cargoes are frequently brought to the harbour of Sierra Leone. The blacks are frequently transferred on board of an English emigrant vessel. Of course, it is said they are voluntary agents; and care is always taken to pick out the best and strongest men for the special service of Her Majesty. They are kept back, drilled, and sent to join the regiments in the East and West Indies. This proceeding is called a free enlistment.

Above 300 slaves who absolutely refused to be shipped off were lately brought to a village near Sierra Leone. They all ran away the very first night which they had to pass in their new abode. The reason for their flight may be found in the fact of their being locked up in the slaveyard for many months—a course of treatment which they cannot bear. As for colonization, they are utterly ignorant of the meaning of the word.

At this moment we have an inquiry into the conduct of an overseer who, it appears curtailed the rations given out for the slaves by one-half and more, while he appropriated the profits of this infamous proceeding to his own use. Dr. Lawson, an eminent physician, by whom the inquiry was set on foot, found, that however well and healthy the slaves might be when brought from the slave ship, no sooner had they passed some weeks in the slave-yards, than they grew weak and debilitated, and complained of pains in the bowels. The mortality too increased at a fearful rate. In the course of the inquiry it was found that the contract for rice which the Government had made with Mr. C. Hedda had not been made use of, as the overseer used to feed the slaves with inferior victuals, keeping the profits to himself.

The practice of taking the slaves to Sierra Leone increases their sufferings. The voyage from the lower coast to this port is often longer than that to the Brazils, and it has happened that a vessel which was taken about 60 miles from a Brazilian port was brought back to Sierra Leone. Of course, this caused many deaths on board, for the slavers having lost all interest in the cargo are very negligent of the wants of the slaves on their passage to an English harbour. Many of the slaves too are killed and wounded by the English guns, for the British sailors, anxious to take possession, give the slavers at once full broadsides of grape and canister, without caring for the lives of those on board. The prize money is calculated at so much per head, no matter whether the blacks are alive or dead; and as for the vessel, which is burnt or cut up after its reaching shore, all the sailors care for is its tonnage.

Of course no mention is made of these facts in the English papers, and John Bull flatters himself he forwards the ends of philanthropy with the money which he expends for the suppression of the slave trade.

Truly one might ask the question whether it can be the intention ...

FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE NEWS, &c. SEE THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE TIMES OF THIS DAY.

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